

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 MC-02 AID-05 EB-07

TRSE-00 /099 W

----- 041457

R 101230Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3640

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KU, SY, PLO

SUBJ: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS KUWAIT

SUMMARY: DURING TWO-HOUR VISIT TO KUWAIT SEPTEMBER 9, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM REPORTEDLY DELIVERED MESSAGE TO ACTING AMIR FROM PRESIDENT ASSAD ON SYRIAN POSITION ON SINAI ACCORD. IN

MEETINGS WITH PRESS, KHADDAM TOOK UNUSUALLY HARD LINE CRITICAL OF EGYPT AND US EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN WIDE-COVERAGE TO SEPT 9 VISIT TO KUWAIT

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OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM WHO REPORTEDLY ALSO WILL VISIT

BAHRAIN, QATAR AND UAE ON WHIRLWIND TOUR OF GULF CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN SYRIAN POSITION ON SINAI AGREEMENT. KHADDAM ARRIVED IN SPECIAL JORDANIAN AIR FORCE PLANE AND SPENT ONLY FEW HOURS IN KUWAIT MEETING WITH ACTING AMIR AND CROWN PRINCE SHAIKH JABER AL-AHMED. HE CARRIED A MESSAGE FROM SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD (THE SECOND THIS WEEK), THE CONTENTS OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DISCLOSED. THE ONLY PUBLIC GOK STATEMENT ON VISIT WAS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WHO SAID THAT ACTING AMIR HAD CONFIRMED TO KHADDAM GOK SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND THE RECAPTURE OF OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS.

2. KHADDAM MET WITH LOCAL PRESS BOTH ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. HE REPORTEDLY SAID MESSAGE DEALT WITH PRESENT ARAB SITUATION IN LIGHT OF SIGNING OF SINAI ACCORD AND THE SERIOUS EFFECT IT HAD ON OVER-ALL ARAB STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONIST ENEMY. ACCORDING PRESS KHADDAM STATED QUOTE THE ACCORD HAS OPENED A HOLE IN THE WALL OF ARAB SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE AND THAT QUOTE ALL ROADS BEFORE KISSINGER ARE CLOSED UNQUOTE. KHADDAM SIDE-STEPPED QUESTION ON WHETHER SYRIA HAD RECEIVED ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT ASSAD AND SAID SUBJECT OF ARAB SUMMIT HAD NOT YET COME UP. HE CLAIMED THAT CONTACTS WERE UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH A QUOTE STRONG ARAB FRONT EXTENDING FROM RAS TANURA IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA TO AQABA IN JORDAN UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: KUWAITI PRESS IS NOTORIOUS FOR SCARE HEADLINES AND INACCURACIES IN REPORTING STATEMENTS BY VISITING OFFICIALS. KHADDAM UNDOUBTEDLY HAD SOME HARD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT SINAI ACCORD BUT WE SUSPECT HE WAS LESS OUTSPOKEN THAN SUGGESTED IN CRITICIZING EGYPT AND US PEACE EFFORTS. SOME INFORMED LOCAL SOURCES HAVE SUGGESTED RECENT SPATE OF SYRIAN MESSAGES ALSO DEAL WITH PROPOSED KUWAITI PURCHASES OF SOVIET ARMS ON BEHALF SYRIA AND JORDAN.

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TAGS: PFOR, KU, SY, PLO, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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